

A Great Giver

Mr. Carnegie's recent gift of over five millions to New York City for libraries, a like amount to the workmen of Pittsburg, together with other large sums mounting up into the millions for public libraries here and there, marks him as the champion giver of our day and generation. He is said to be worth something like two hundred millions of dollars, and he has announced his intention to give all of this immense sum away during his life time to various and sundry benevolent and educational enterprises. His doctrine is that a man who dies rich dies disgraced. The doctrine is not very popular with rich men, and there are not very many who appear to be willing to run neck and neck with Mr. Carnegie in magnificent philanthropy. If enormously rich men should in general return to the people the millions which the people have poured into their coffers, they would achieve an impregnable position in the affection and esteem of the world. Their names would go down to posterity encircled with a splendor of fame which might well be the envy of kings. But the most of them would rather have the money for a few years than the fame forever, and so they rake in the shekles to the last gasp. They die, they are buried, and perhaps at length grow wise in hell, where wisdom but adds to anguish.

Mr. Carnegie is rather wiser than his generation in the kind of benevolence he fosters with his wealth. Not being a Christian himself, he could hardly be expected to support distinctly religious benevolence. But he puts books in the hands of the poor, and he provides for the helpless old age of the worker. All this is good enough as far as it goes. Neither civilization nor religion will suffer by what he has done, and his example may incite other rich men to make a better use of their millions than leaving them to extravagant heirs.

A Youthful Preacher

Lonnie Lawrence Dennis is the name of the mulatto child evangelist, only seven years old, yet preaching the gospel to crowded houses, and with notable power and effectiveness. He is a prodigy, perhaps a freak, illustrating one of those strange touches of what we call nature, and partial to no color. Blind Tom was one of those freaks, a poor, ignorant, almost idiotic negro slave, who without any musical education or training was a master of the piano, thrilling vast audiences with his passionate rendering of the great composers. He had only to hear the most difficult bars once to be able to render them perfectly. Some very brilliant scintillations of genius sometimes flash from out the wreck of our human nature, if it be a wreck and not a development. They prophesy what we are to be in the perfection, when every dull faculty shall be glorified with that indescribable power and brilliancy which we now name genius. Very splendid will be that redeemed life, set free from earthly limitations. It is difficult for us to rise, in this world, above our kinship to mother earth, dull, heavy and insensible. Our faculties are chained to the clods. But by and by we shall mount up as the eagle, soaring amid the splendors; we shall walk the long distances of knowledge, and not faint; we shall run in the thrilling enthusiasms of the heavenly life, and not be weary.

Ashland College and Missions

At the great convention in Cleveland, Ohio, a few years ago, of the Students' Volunteer Missionary Movement, the question was asked, Is it wise to go to the foreign field without the best education possible? The answer was an emphatic, No. The best education possible is necessary. Mark, necessary, not merely desirable. This is the experience of men who have been in the field, who know the needs of our missionaries, and the qualifications necessary to attain the highest and best success. Of course intellectual training is not the only qualification, not even the primary one, but it is a very important, even essential part of the equipment for those who would go forth into the foreign field to labor for the Master. Speaking of the intellectual and practical qualifications of the volunteer to the foreign field, Prof. Ewing, D.D., president of a College in India, says:

In view of what has been said it is obvious that missionaries should be thoroughly educated men and women. The best natural gifts disciplined and developed by the training of years are in demand. Let there be no short cuts into the mission field. Seven years of literary and theological training may seem long to some of you whose hearts are throbbing with enthusiasm for Christ, and who contemplate with horror the rapid rate at which the unevangelized millions are passing into eternity without having heard a word of the world's Savior. To you I would say: Wait! Here God is fashioning you into workmen who need not to be ashamed. Toil on at that Greek and German and Latin. Master as best you can the philosophies and histories and sciences of the schools, studying all the while to know more and more of the mind of the Master. Every fact learned now will count for something by and by, and you will exceedingly rejoice over this equipment when in the future you will discover how very inadequate, after all, that which you gain thru years of patient preparation is to enable you to accomplish what your heart prompts you to attempt for him whose service is your joy.

From these men of experience we learn that the most adequate intellectual training is an absolutely essential qualification of the volunteer to the foreign field. Out of the theological seminaries and Christian colleges and missionary schools must come, will come, the leaders of the missionary enterprise at home and abroad, and without a college the Brethren church will be without missionary growth and development in the foreign field. The students in our colleges, the men and the women who have gone out from Christian schools with trained intellects and consecrated lives, these have been the leaders in Christian missions, and to these we must look for men and women who in the future will be the champions of the missionary cause, men and women able to go forth and cope successfully with the hoary systems of faith, rooted and grounded in the hearts and lives and customs and habits of the people thru long centuries of teaching. The brightest and best intellectual gifts to be found in the church, the best trained men and women only should be sent to the foreign field. The great systems of religion must be undermined and overthrown before the establishment of the Christian faith in the hearts of the people is possible. In other words one must be able to demonstrate in life and teaching the superiority of Christianity over all other systems of religion. It required an Apostle Paul, an enthusiastic student, a ripe scholar, to meet the Athenian philosophers and discourse intelligently and entertainingly on the resurrection of the Lord Jesus from the dead.